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QUERIES

Humbly Offered to the

Lord Arch-Bishop of *Canterbury*,

And the Six other

BISHOPS

Concerning the

English Reformation,

And the Nine and Thirty

ARTICLES

OF THE

CHURCH of ENGLAND.

By *P. M.* D. D.

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Some *Queries* humbly Offered to the Lord Arch-Bishop of *Canterbury*, and the other 6 Bishops, *&c.*

THe *Church* of *England* is either the whole *Catholick Church*, or a *Member* thereof; If a *Member* only, name me that *Church* or *Congregation* under the Sun, whose *Sacraments* and *Liturgy* she embraces, unless she have cut her self off from the rest of the *Body*?

Does allow the *Sacraments* of *Lutherans* or *Calvinists*?

From whence was *Cranmer*, that first Patriarch or *Reformer* of the *Church* of *England*, sent? Who gave him Authority to Preach his *Reformed Gospel*? Was it just or honest for him to rise up against the *Church* of *Rome*, by virtue of a *Commission* from her received; And if so, I pray inform me whether a Bishop or Minister fallen from the *Church* of *England*, may not also take upon him to Preach against the *Church* of *England*, by pretence of the *Orders* received from her Hands.

Whether want of *Mission* be not an error in the Foundation of any *Church*? It being *Theft* and *Robery* (as our Saviour hath taught us) not *to enter by the door into the Sheep-fold*.

Whether *Cranmer* enter'd by the *Parliament-door*, or by the Gate of the *Scriptures*? But this latter is the old Song of *Hereticks* and *Sectaries*, perpetually boasting of *Scripture*. I demand therefore, does not the *Bible* admit of various Interpretations? Whence of necessity some Judge is to be assign'd, to determine which is the true *Interpretation*, unless your inclinations be to wrangle to all Eternity?

To these *Queries* I have often-times desir'd an Answer, but never yet met with any. If you pretend (as many do) that *Cranmer* and his *Associates* deriv'd their *Holy Orders* from Christ and his Apostles, by the hands of *Roman Catholick* Bishops. It follows inevitably, that *Roman Catholick* Bishops did also receive their *Orders* from Christ and his Apostles, and consequently are true Bishops; and there-

fore to be heard. By this Answer the *Protestants* seem to me, to destroy their own Cause. But you will say perhaps, that *Roman Catholick* Bishops did receive their *Orders*, not their *Doctrine* from Christ and his Apostles; Very good: I would fain know then, by whose Authority the first *Reformers* rose up against the *Doctrine* of the *Church* of *Rome*? Untie this knot, or confess that *Cranmer*, *Luther*, *Calvin*, *Socinus*, &c. made themselves *Judges*, *Witnesses*, and *Accusers*.

But the more common Answer is, that every National Church may Reform it self. Be it so: Then it follows, *Scotland* may Reform it self to *Calvinism*, *Saxony*, to *Lutheranism*, &c. Moreover, 'tis false, that the change of Religion was made here in *England* by Vote of the National Church, or Clergy of *England*. No, no, but by the giddiness of a *Few*, during the Minority of *Edward* VI. being then a Child of Ten years old. Read the *Annals* of those times, (even *Fox* himself) where 'tis evident, that almost all the *English* Bishops (*Cranmer*, and two or three more excepted) were utterly against the pretended *Reformation*.

Yet let us suppose, but not grant, Religion to have been reform'd here by the Major part of the *English* Clergy: I understand not how it may be lawful for the Church of *England*, being in actual Communion with the *Catholick Church*, to separate it self from the rest of the Body: If you say this was not done by any fault of the *English* Church, but of the Church of *Rome*, obtruding on the World her *Errors* and *Corruptions*; I answer in short, that all *Hereticks* (themselves being *Judges*,) will escape Condemnation. And further, let the *Reader* take notice, that all *Presbyterians* are wont to urge this very instance in their own defence against the Church of *England*, to wit, that they have left only the *Errors* and *Corruptions* of the *English* Church.

Whether the true Service of God hath been corrupted throughout the whole World before *Cranmers* rise? If not,

tell me in what Provinces of the Earth did it exist? Whether among the *Waldenses*? But I am Ignorant from whence *Peter Waldo*, the *Merchant* of *Lyons*, received his *Miſſion*. Nor do I know whether his *Sacraments* are approv'd by the Church of *England*.

Whether at this day there be no Pure and Apoſtolick Service of God in the World, except that Eſtabliſh'd by Law in *England* and *Ireland*? Whether it be Lawful for the People of *England* to invent a Church to themſelves, divided from all the reſt of the Chriſtian World? By what Authority do they cenſure the *Sacraments* and *Rites* of the *Roman* Church?

Whether *Cranmer* was the firſt Arch-Biſhop of the Church of *England*? The reaſon of my doubt, is, becauſe the Arch-Biſhops of *Canterbury* for nine preceding Ages were all *Roman Catholicks*? If he was the firſt, he wanted Epiſcopal Succeſſion, becauſe he being the firſt of his Sect, he ſucceeded to none. Then how could he be a Lawful Paſtor, who had neither Succeſſion, Miſſion, nor Miracles to recommend his *New* Doctrine? I ſay *New*, and ſtrange at that time, and for many Ages before.

Whether that be a true Church that wants Lawful Paſtors? And whether Paſtors, not Lawful and True, can be ſaid to have true *Sacraments*? If not, then, is it not better to Communicate under *One Kind* with *Catholicks*, than under *No Kind* with *Reformers*.

Whether the XXXIX. *Articles* of the Church of *England* be *Articles of Faith*, yea or no? If not, then no body is bound to believe them under pain of *Damnation*. If they be, then hath the Church of *England* invented new *Articles of Faith* beſides thoſe XII. inſtituted by Chriſt and his Apoſtles.

Whether the Reformed Religion may not be divided and ſub-divided into endleſs Reformations?

Whether in the matter of the *Euchariſt*, the Argument drawn from our *Senſes* be not fallible? The reaſon of this

queſtion

queſtion is, becauſe the *Serpent* deceiv'd our firſt *Parents* by perſwading them to believe their *own Eyes* rather than the *Word of God*. As that *They ſhould eat of the Tree of Knowledge becauſe it was fair to the Eye*. Now if *Mankind* were ſo deceiv'd by their *Sight*, pray whence ſhould their other *Senſes* deſerve more credit.

Whether the *Church* of *England* be not changable according to the various inclinations of *Engliſh Parliaments*?

Whether the Spirit of *Calvin* denying, and that of *Luther* affirming a *Corporal Preſence* of Chriſt in the *Sacrament*, be the ſame Spirit? If not, then both cannot be of God.

Was not *John Calvin* a moſt impudent Creature in aſſuming to himſelf the Office of *Reforming* the *World*, being yet but a young Man of 25 or 26 years of age, and that without all pretence of *Miracles*, a thing which Chriſt himſelf undertook not under 30 years of age.

Whether, from the Womb of the *Reformation* have not iſſued all thoſe Slaughters, Rapines, Tumults, Plundring of Churches, Schiſms, and Civil Wars which broke out in the year 1641?

Whether *Africa* produces more variety of *Monſters*, than *Britain* does *Fanaticks*, where every Man may Read, and Interpret the *Scriptures* according to his own Judgment of Diſcretion?

Whether Queen *Elizabeth*, born of *Ann Bolen*, (Queen *Katherine* yet living) can be thought Legitimate?

How admirable was the Wiſdom of *Henry* VIII. by expelling one *Pope* of *Rome*, to raiſe up infinite *Popes* of his own Subjects.

By whoſe Authority did he Divorce his Virtuous Wife Queen *Katherine*? His own, or a Foreign? If by his own, why may not other Kings alſo put away their Wives at their pleaſure? If *Mary* his Daughter by Queen *Katherine*, was Legitimate Heireſs of the Kingdom, then *Elizabeth* was not; becauſe it was not Lawful for King *Henry* to have two Wives at once.

If

If that Religion be Sacred that's Eſtabiſh'd by Law, why did Queen *Elizabeth* deſtroy the *Catholick Religion* Eſtabliſh'd by ſo many Acts of Parliament?

Elizabeth Expel'd 14 *Catholick* Biſhops from their *Sees* for refuſing the Oath of Supremacy. But how could they Swear her to be Head or Supream Governeſs of the Church, when they could not Swear ſhe was Head of the Kingdom?

Did not *Cranmer* and his *Reforming Aſſociates* ſteal their *Liturgy* out of the *Roman Miſſal, Ritual* and *Breviary*?

Are not *Proteſtants* bound by their Oath of Supremacy to obey the King as Supream Governour, as well in all Spiritual or Eccleſiaſtial Things or Cauſes, as Temporal? What mean they by theſe words. *As well in all Spiritual as Temporal Things or Cauſes*, &c. But that *Proteſtants* are Sworn to yield to the King all manner of Obedience, both Civil and Religious? Are they not obliged therefore according to this Oath, to become *Catholicks* with a *Catholick* King, *Calviniſts* with a *Calviniſt* King? *Arians* with an *Arian*? I ſay according to this Oath, becauſe the King's Majeſty is the only Supream Governour (under Chriſt) as well in all Spiritual as Temporal Cauſes. Which words confeſs in the King a Spiritual as well as Civil Juriſdiction. But whence does his Spiritual Juriſdiction appear without the *Power* of the *Keys*?

You will ſay the King is to be obey'd, ſo far as we may by the Laws of God, and the Kingdom. Be it ſo, then it follows, that the King is not Supream Governour under Chriſt, but the Laws of God and the Kingdom. And what if Controverſy ariſe between the King and his Subjects about the true Senſe of *Scripture*? Who ſhall be Judge? the private Spirit, or not? Hence, if I am not miſtaken, came the *Riſe* of our late *Civil Wars*.

Why did ſo many Noble Men under *Edward* IV. and Q. *Elizabeth*, ſo readily embrace the *Reformation*? Was't for Conſcience-ſake, as the Lucre of *Church-Lands*?

Why do *Engliſh-men* (ſo deſirous of *Novelties*,) hate *Popery*?

Popery? Perhaps becauſe *Popery* is no *Novelty*.

The *Church* of *England* is either Fallible, or Infallible; if Fallible (as is confeſt by all) then is ſhe not founded upon a *Rock*, becauſe ſhe may Deceive, and be Deceived.

Whether Cardinal *Wolſey* did wiſely by Demoliſhing *Monaſteries* to found *Colledges*? The reaſon of this doubt is, becauſe the *Tree of Knowledge* was not the *Tree of Life*.

Is there not wanting in the *Church* of *England* a more correct Tranſlation of the *Bible*? Many material Errors being found in our preſent *Engliſh Bible*, tending to *Schiſm* and liberty of the *Fleſh*. For Inſtance, *Gal.* 5. 17. *Dan.* 4. 24. where the Prophet ſpeaks thus to King *Nebuchadnezar*, *Quamobrem Rex, conſilium meum placeat tibi & peccata tua eleemoſynis redime, & iniquitates tuas miſericordiis Pauperum.* Which Text the preſent *Engliſh* Tranſlation thus renders, viciouſly enough. *Wherefore O King, break off thy ſins by Righteouſneſs, and thine iniquities by ſhewing mercy to the Poor.* Whereas it ought to have been Tranſlated, *Redeem thy ſins by Alms-deeds, and thine iniquities by ſhewing mercy to the Poor.* Again, how are St. *Pauls* words to the *Corinthians* miſ-rendred, 1 *Cor.* 7. 9. *Quod ſi non ſe continent, nubant*; *But if they cannot contain, let them Marry*; where this word (*cannot*) not being found in the *Greek*, was deviſed in favour of the *Fleſh*.

Likewiſe the words of Chriſt, *Matt.* 19. 11. are corrupted in favour of the Fleſh, *Non omnes capiunt verbum iſtud ſed quibus datus eſt.* All Men (*cannot*) receive this ſaying, but ſuch to whom it is given. It ought to be, all Men *do not* receive this ſaying. Alſo the words of *Job*, Chapter 7. 1. and many other Texts, eſpecially, *Exod.* 20. 4. in hatred of the *Picture* of our Saviour. *Non facies tibi Sculptile.* Which word *Sculptile*, is by the 70 Interpreters Tranſlated *Idol*, as indeed it ought to be, becauſe God did not forbid *Images*, but *Idols*.

FINIS.